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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Children's Foster Care  
Review Board System**

**OF THE**

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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STATE DOCUMENTS

(Covering Period July 1, 1983 thorough June 30, 1984)

**Children's Foster Care Review Board System**

2221 Devine Street Suite 418  
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

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**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

**The Honorable Richard W. Riley, Governor  
and Members of the General Assembly**

I am pleased to report herein the activities of the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board System for the fiscal year 1983 - 84.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chappell, Director  
September, 1984

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In South Carolina during the years 1970 through 1974, six major private organizations spearheaded a growing community interest in obtaining permanent homes for children in foster care. As a result of the activities of these groups, the State Legislature passed bills setting up three major child welfare programs for 1) broader involuntary termination of parental rights, 2) a statewide foster care review board system and 3) subsidized adoption. To insure implementation, the Governor established an Office of Child Advocacy.

The six major organizations were: the American Civil Liberties Union, the South Carolina Council for Human Rights, the South Carolina League of Women Voters, the Midlands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the South Carolina Youth Workers Association and Helping Hands of Aiken County. Child psychiatrists, child psychologists, social work professors, law professors and various church leaders also participated as private citizens to help give direction to the project.

These organizations and individuals worked together to research and document the state of abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children in cooperation with Representative Carolyn Frederick, Vice Chairperson of the General Assembly's Study Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters Pertaining to Children. These studies showed the following problems to exist:

1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the children in the Department of Social Services foster care program would not return home nor be adopted under the present system. Services were not provided to the parents to facilitate return home. Also, no efforts were made to free the children for adoption under the abandonment statute although the children were eligible for such action.
2. In seventeen institutions (formerly known as orphanages and all being private except three), forty-three percent (43%) of the children were placed there by the Department of Social Services and fifty-seven percent (57%) were placed by some other party. Twenty-five percent (25%) to fifty percent (50%) of the children in these institutions were eligible for adoption under the abandonment statute but all seventeen institutions stated that adoption was not one of their services. Most of them also offered no services to families to enable return of the children home.
3. Forty-three percent (43%) of the children in foster care had been in two or more foster placements and eighteen percent (18%) had been in three or more.
4. No method existed for keeping track of children in foster care. The courts expressed concern about children being lost in the

system. Even when children were freed for adoption, the courts had no way of knowing if the children had been adopted.

5. Getting children out of foster care into permanent families not only saves children but tax dollars. It cost \$2,000 per year to keep one child in foster care. (It is now estimated to be \$4,000 per year per child.)

As a result of these studies and the public interest they generated, a state-wide foster care review board system was legislated by the 1974 General Assembly. The system was devised mainly by Representative Carolyn Frederick and Barbara Chappell, the current director of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

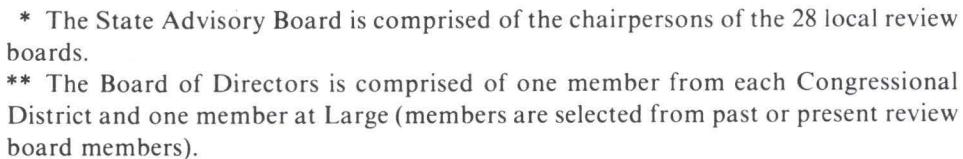
In March, 1975, Governor James Edwards, by Executive Order, established the Office of Child Advocacy as a division of the Office of the Governor. The funding was shared by the State and a private foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation of New York City. The Executive Order charged the Office of Child Advocacy with the responsibility of acting as ombudsman on behalf of the abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children of the State, but the primary purpose was to establish and coordinate the Children's Foster Care Review Board System.

The Governor's Executive Assistants set June 20, 1977, as the expiration date for the Office of Child Advocacy. Private monies which funded the Office were due to expire by that date. Also by that date, the review board system had its own budget as authorized by statute and had been determined to be a separate state agency. The Governor's Executive Assistants believed that the Office had accomplished its mission by having implemented the review board system.

The State Auditor's Office and the Governor's Office advised transferring the Office of Child Advocacy staff, the Director and the Administrative Assistant, to the review board system because they served as the administrative unit of the review board system and supervised the review board system staff. The transfer was approved by the General Assembly in the '77-'78 budgetary process.

From July, 1977, through July 1980, the Office of Child Advocacy existed as a program of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System. It conducted an ombudsman program for children in general and a training program for hospitals and other organizations upon request in the prevention as well as identification of child abuse and neglect. In 1980, the General Assembly returned the function of the Office of Child Advocacy program to the Governor's Office.

The Children's Foster Care Review Board System is currently comprised of a staff of thirteen, serving twenty-eight review boards across the state. The review board system reviews the cases of approximately 3,000 children in public and private agencies and institutions twice annually, statistically evaluates the state of foster care in South Carolina and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and child caring agencies as outlined in the review board statute.





## **STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE AGENCY**

Section 20-7-2380 through 2430 of the South Carolina Children's Code creates the Children's Foster Care Review Board System and establishes the agency to administer case review in accordance with the provisions of Section 20-7-1630 as follows:

### **I. Board of Directors for Review of Foster Care of children**

The Board of Directors consists of seven members, all of whom must be past or present members of the local review boards. There must be one member from each congressional district and one member from the State at large, all appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Directors is responsible for promulgating regulations pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 23 of Title 1 relating to the functions and procedures of the state office and local review boards. It is responsible for making recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to foster care policies and procedures of public and private agencies/institutions which arrange for foster care for children. The Board of Directors also promulgates regulations to provide for necessary reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions. The Board of Directors is also responsible for the employment of the agency director.

### **II. State Advisory Board**

The State Advisory Board consists of the chairpersons of the twenty-eight local review boards, who are appointed by the Governor. The Advisory Board is responsible for promulgating regulations to establish policies, including policies for summary review of children privately placed in privately owned institutions or group homes. These regulations also include provisions for reports and other information required from state, county and private agencies and institutions, provisions for scheduling and conducting reviews and appropriate notification of interested parties, regulations governing the proceedings of the local review boards and the Advisory Board including the establishment of quorums and dissemination of decisions, and the process modifying or appealing a board decision. The Advisory Board meets at least once a year to make recommendations to the Board of Directors with regard to coordination of responsibilities among the local review boards and between the local boards and the Board of Directors.



### III. Local Review Board

There are twenty-eight local review boards, composed of five members each, from the sixteen judicial circuits throughout the state. Board members are appointed by the Governor as recommended by their local legislative delegations. Their duties are as follows:

1. To review every six months cases of children who have resided in public or private foster care for a period of more than six months to determine what efforts have been made by the supervising agency or child caring institution to acquire a permanent home for such child. Review Boards will recommend continued placement in the child caring institution unless the parents is able to resume care, in at least those instances when:
  - (a) children are privately placed in privately owned institutions or group homes; and
  - (b) the conditions of the affidavit of summary review are met and the affidavit is made available to the review board every six months; and
  - (c) the affidavit is accepted by the review board.
2. Except as provided in subsection (1), to encourage and facilitate the return of all these children to their natural parents or, upon a determination that this return is not in the best interest of the child, to initiate such procedures pursuant to law as would make the child eligible for adoption or direct the appropriate agency to take such action followed by a maximum effort to place the child adoptively.
3. To promote and encourage all agencies and institutions involved in placing children in foster care to place children with persons both suitable and eligible as adoptive parents.
4. To advise foster parents of their right to petition the appropriate court for the termination of parental rights and the right of adoption for any child who has been in their care for a period of more than six months and to encourage such foster parents to initiate such proceedings in appropriate cases.
5. To direct a child-caring institution or agency and exert all possible efforts to make arrangements for permanent foster care or guardianship for children for whom return to natural parents or adoption is determined to be unfeasible or impossible.
6. To report to the State Office of the Department of Social Services and other adoptive or foster care agencies and institutions deficiencies in such agencies' efforts to secure permanent homes for children discovered in the board's review of such cases as provided for in item (1) of this section.

After having received a hearing before the board, if a child-caring institution or agency does not plan to comply with the review board decision relating to permanent placement of a child in its care, such child-caring institution or agency shall notify the local review board within twenty-one days after receipt of the decision.

#### IV. Administration

The Administrative Unit of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System consists of the Director, Administrative Assistant III, Administrative Specialist C, Staff Attorney and Accountant. The duties of this unit include:

1. Applying for and administering funds necessary for operation of the review board system.
2. Hiring and supervising review board system employees.
3. Recommending and encouraging implementation of needed policies and procedures on an interim basis between meetings of the Board of Directors and State Advisory Board.
4. Supervising the day to day operation of the review board system.
5. Providing training for review board members.
6. Conducting research and advocacy projects designed to improve the services to abused, neglected, abandoned and dependent children.

The review boards' six Program Information Coordinators and two Administrative Specialist A's are full-time employees of the Children's Foster Care Review Board System. They provide a full range of administrative and secretarial support services to the review boards. The Program Information Coordinators travel to all review meetings, record case information and board decisions and advisory recommendations, coordinate scheduling of case reviews, see to it that all review board decisions are mailed to the appropriate parties, maintain central files and act as resource persons and consultants to the boards they serve. It is also their responsibility to ensure uniform implementation of all official policies and procedures promulgated by the Advisory Board and the Board of Directors. The two Administrative Specialist A's handle all typing and clerical duties for the Program Information Coordinators.

## **MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF**

### **I. Members of Board of Directors:**

As of June 30, 1984, no appointments had been made to this board.

### **II. Advisory Board Members:**

Rev. A. L. Brodie, Jr., Chairman, Columbia

Board 1A - Ms. Linda Wright, Social Worker, Summerville

Board 2A - Rev. A. L. Brodie, Jr., Chaplain at Willow Lane School, Aiken

Board 3A - Ms. Lynne H. Bozard, Homemaker, Manning

Board 4A - Ms. Sue Brigman, Homemaker, Blenheim

Board 5A - Ms. Dorothy Harmon, Social Work Professor, Columbia

Board 5B - Ms. Suzanne Rhodes, Energy Program Manager, Columbia

Board 5C - Ms. Betty Sue Gandy, Social Worker at Hall Institute, Columbia (retired)

Board 5D - Mr. Sam Davis, Community Programs Coordinator at Department of Mental Retardation, Columbia

Board 6A - Ms. June Stitzel, Nurse, Health Springs

Board 7A - Mr. James Cheek, Attorney, Wellford

Board 7B - Mr. J. Arthur Bridges, Executive Director of Community Services, Gaffney

Board 8A - Rev. Dan Compton, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Ware Shoals

Board 8B - Mr. David Abrams, Teacher at Whitten Center, Newberry

Board 8C - Ms. Pamela Howard, Homemaker, Greenwood

Board 9A - Ms. Alma Wilbanks, Nurse, North Charleston

Board 9B - Ms. Martha Ulmer, Teacher, Charleston

Board 9C - Ms. Christine Jackson, Director of YWCA, Charleston

Board 10A - Ms. Mary Grace Hull, Homemaker, Westminster

Board 10B - Mr. Dick Hemly, Director of Red Cross, Pendleton

Board 11A - Ms. Marion Atkins, Director of Volunteer Services, Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, Columbia

Board 11B - Ms. Katherine Scavens, Teacher, Edgefield

Board 12A - Ms. Joan Harrington, Homemaker, Florence

Board 13A - Dr. Paul Wood, Clinical Psychology Professor, Central

Board 13B - Ms. Regina Myers, Homemaker, Greenville

Board 13C - Mr. Saleem Shabazz, Officer, Greenville Department of Corrections

Board 14A - Ms. Mary Oswald, Teacher, Allendale

Board 15A - Ms. Pat Schooler, Homemaker, Georgetown

Board 16A - Ms. June Attaway, Homemaker, Union

### III. Staff:

Barbara Chappell .....	Director
Denise Ruff .....	Administrative Assistant
David Butler .....	Staff Attorney
Linda Pollard .....	Office Manager (Administrative Specialist C)
Wilhelmina Rhodarmer .....	Agency Accountant
Hanna Buford .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Debra Moore .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Priscilla McLaughlin .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Patricia Harrison .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Beverly Pittman .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Phyllis Walker .....	Coordinator to the Local Review Boards
Wendy Rose .....	Secretary to the Local Review Boards (Administrative Specialist A)
Brenda Jordan .....	Secretary to the Local Review Boards (Administrative Specialist A)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1983 - 1984**

Adjusted Appropriations from State Budget ..... \$322,808.12\*

## Expenditures:

One unclassified position ..... \$27,732.00

Twelve classified positions ..... 163,660.25

Per Diem to review board members ..... 21,665.00

Travel reimbursement to staff and review  
board members ..... 20,333.22

Contractual services ..... 13,262.00

Supplies ..... 5,296.22

Fixed charges ..... 19,045.60

Equipment ..... 721.76

Employer contributions ..... 36,165.60

TOTAL ..... 307,881.65      307,881.65

Balance at close of Fiscal 1984 ..... \$ 14,926.47

## Special Donations Account

Total contribution brought forward ..... \$ 2.02

Expenditures ..... -0-

Balance at close of Fiscal 1984 ..... \$ 2.02

*\* Includes additional appropriation in the amount of \$911.12 for employer contributions.*

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1977 - 1983

	1977 Totals	1983 Totals	Percentage Increase In Number of Children Placed
Children leaving foster care	296 (11% of the children reviewed)	628 (20% of the children reviewed)	112%
Children returned home	140 (5% of the children reviewed)	508 (16% of the children reviewed)	262%
Children freed for adoption	112 (4% of the children reviewed)	415 (13% of the children reviewed)	271%
Children placed in adoptive homes	61 (2% of the children reviewed)	197 (6% of the children reviewed)	213%
Children over 12 placed in adoptive homes	3 (5% of the children placed adoptively)	37 (19% of the children placed adoptively)	1133%

\* The average length of time a child spends in foster care has decreased by about one year from 1977 to 1983. If the 628 children who left foster care in 1983 had remained in foster care another year, it would have cost the state \$2,512,000 based on a minimum cost of \$4,000 per year per child.



**DOCUMENTS**

Manual of Policies and Procedures Relating to the Children's Foster Care Review Board System in South Carolina, (*revised April, 1984*)

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to July 1, 1977

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to July 1, 1978

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System prior to July 1, 1979

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1979 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1980 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1981 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1982 Calendar Year

A Summary of Statistical Information Regarding Children Reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board System during the 1983 Calendar Year

Progress Since Implementation of the Review Board System: 1977-80, 1977-81, 1977-82 and 1977-83

State Advisory Board Reports to the General Assembly: 1978, 1979, and 1982.

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